(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c). While a Low Power TV Transmitter is already operational at Begusarai since 17-02-1989, Barauni lies in the fringe coverage zone of the High Power TV Transmitter (HPT) at Patna where TV signal can be received by using elevated antennae. There is no approved scheme, at present, to set up any TV transmitter at Barauni.

[English]

Irregularities in providing telephone connections

3392. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the "Hindustan Times" dated July 6, 1996 captioned "Telephone lines have miles to go",

(b) if so, whether the gap between demand and supply of telephone connections and corruption at grassroot level have increased;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government have chalked out any strategy to meet the challenges; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The Gap between the demand and supply of Telephones over the years has reduced. In the first four years of 8th Plan, additional capacity of 61.68 lakh lines has been created for achieving significant reduction in the Waiting List. The following table indicates the improvement, in reducing the waiting period as reflected by reduction in the Waiting List as a percentage of working lines:-

Year	All India	Delhi
1993-94	31.11%	30.82%
1995-96	19.00%	0.79%

For keeping check on corruption, Vigilance Cells are working at different levels.

[Translation]

Postponement in expansion of P & T projects

3393. SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the schemes pertaining to expansion of Posts and Telegraph Department are not being implemented for the last four months as reported in "Nav Bharat Times" dated July 14, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of schemes for expansion of P&T Department Schemes postponed or closed down; and

(d) the time by which the above schemes are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. The report in the Nav Bharat Times dated July 14, 1996 about the work of the Department of Post is not based on facts. The department's programmes of development in accordance with the respective Annual Plans formulated under the VIIIth Five Year Plan are being duly implemented. During the current year, 1996-97, implementation of the Plan programmes have been in accordance with the resources initially provided through the Vote on Account for the first four months of the financial year. The programme of computerisation of Postal counters have been proceeeding well during the last 3 years after the initial slowness during the first two years of the plan period due to teething troubles. The department has not suspended or deferred any developmental programme due to paucity of fund. Revenue generated by most of the postal services is not adequate to meet the operational costs. Hence, the department has been provided with necessary budgetary support for appropriate funds.

Regarding opening of new post offices in 1996-97, the department has a target of 80 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and 150 Departmental Sub Offices and these have been allotted to the respective circles. The post offices will be opened subject to fulfilment of norms and availability of resources. So far 20 Departmental Branch Post Offices and 02 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices have been sanctioned during the current year. In respect of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras, the target for the current year is 250 Kendras and this also has been allocated to the Circles including 60 Kendras for tribal/hilly areas. Actions for fulfilling the plan target of the department in respect of opening new post offices are also under way.

The department is also observing the usual economy instructions of the Government. The exercises relating to revision of postal rates is a regular feature of the yearly budgetary exercises of the Government.

(c) and (d). In view of the reply against (a) and (b) above, do not arise.

Development of Halgarh Complex as a tourist spot

3394. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received a proposal from the State Government of Maharashtra for development of 'Halgarh' complex in Surgana tehsil of Nasik district in Maharashtra, into a tourist spot (hill station);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b). The Central Department of Tourism has not received any detailed proposal from the State Government of Maharashtra for the development of Halgarh Complex in Surgana tehsil of Nasik district.

(c) Does not arise.

Doordarshan/AIR Projects in U.P.

3395. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects for setting up of Doordarshan Kendras/AIR stations completed/pending in Uttar Pradesh, location-wise;

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon so far;

(c) the details of the projects proposed to be undertaken during 1996-97 in the State, location-wise;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up these projects in backward areas on priority basis; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). The details of the Doordarshan/AIR projects in Uttar Pradesh are given in *Statement I* and *II*.

(d) and (e). While formulating AIR and Doordarshan projects, it is the constant endeavour of the Government to cover the entire population uniformally including urban, rural and backward population.

STATEMENT-I

S.No.	Location & Scheme		Status/ Date of commissioning	Approx. capital exp.incurred (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Radio station with 6 KW FM Tr. and Receiving facilities at Faizabad	MPS	17.6.1993	265.25
2.	Radio station with 6 KW FM Tr. and Receiving facilities at Bareilly	MPS	17.6.1993	241.25
3.	Radio station with 6 KW FM Tr. and Receiving facilities at Jhansi	MPS	11.7.1993	219.82
4	Radio station with 6 KW FM Tr. and Receiving facilities at Obra	MPS	28.8.1993	211.11
5.	Relay Centre with 10 KW FM Tr. and Receiving facilities at Mussorrie		19.7.1995	155.85
6.	Radio station with 1 KW MW Tr. and Receiving facilities at Pauri	MPS	Technically Ready	241.93
7.	Relay Centre with 1 KW MW Tr. and Receiving facilities at Uttar Kashi		Technically Ready	126.59